

*Record**Jefferson*

24 July 1984

OLL 84-2584

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel
Deputy Director for Special Programs
Office Personnel
Deputy Director for Policy, Analysis,
and Evaluations

VIA: Chief, Liaison Division/OLL

FROM: [redacted] STAT
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: S 2821: To amend Title 5, U.S. Code,
To improve protections for former
spouses of Government officers and
employees under the Civil Service
retirement system and the Federal
employees health benefits program

REFERENCES: Memorandums dated 22 June, 6 July and 9 July
1984 on former Civil Service spouse legis-
lation

1. Attached hereto for your information and analysis is
the subject Bill. As stated by Senator Mathias in his
introductory comments (attached), the Bill permits:

a. A Federal employee or annuitant to elect to
provide survivor benefits to any former spouse (with the
consent of a present spouse, if there is one);

b. State courts to include survivor benefits as part
of a divorce decree or property settlement;

c. A former spouse to enroll in the Federal employee
health benefit plan as long as she/he pays the full
subscription rate. The Bill would require an employee at
the time of retirement to obtain the written, notarized
consent of his or her spouse before electing not to provide
a survivor annuity.

2. On 28 June, this Bill was referred to the Committee on Government Affairs and now resides in the Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services. There is scheduled a hearing on this Bill on 1 August which I will attend.

3. This Bill is similar to HR 2300 and to the OPM proposal. (See references) Senate and House staffers state that while the political climate is right for passage and that differences are being ironed out, time is growing short for legislative action this Congressional session. I predict, however, that this Congress will pass a benefit package for former Civil Service spouses.

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OLL/LD: [redacted] aw (24 July 1984)

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